

Commas & Semicolons with Independent Clauses

Name: _____

Date: _____ Period: _____

RULE: Use a comma before a conjunction (**and, or, but, so, for, nor, yet**) when it joins two independent clauses.

Examples: Farming is a business, and farmers need to make a profit.

Farming can be rewarding, yet it is hard work.

NOTE: A compound verb does **NOT** require a comma before the conjunction.

Example: John **went skiing** at Snowbird and then **went snowboarding** at Brighton.

RULE: Use a semicolon to join two independent clauses when a conjunction **is not** used. When two sentences are joined with a semicolon, they should be related in meaning.

Examples: Many people in Africa farm small pieces of land; these farmers raise food for their families.

Understanding the rules:

An independent clause is _____

The seven conjunctions are _____

Guided Practice: Using a colored pencil, insert a comma when needed. Explain the rule you used under the sentence.

1) Farmers prepare the soil so they can plant crops in the fields.

Explanation _____

2) Some seeds are planted directly in the ground others are started indoors.

Explanation _____

3) The farmers can buy the seeds fresh or save them from a previous crop.

Explanation _____

4) Weeds of all kinds suddenly appear and the farmers must act quickly.

Explanation _____

5) Farmers must remove the weeds or they will disturb the younger plants.

Explanation _____

6) Jill wrote about her work in Africa she is teaching English in the schools there.

Explanation _____

7) Jill loves working with the children but she misses her family terribly.

Explanation _____

8) I love watching *The Office* on Netflix Jim and Dwight are my favorite characters.

Explanation _____

9) Jim was in love with Pam but Pam was engaged to Roy.

Explanation _____

10) Dwight loves being a salesman and working on his beet farm.

Explanation _____